

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1 - 12. (Canceled)

13. (New) A modular switching device comprising a plurality of interconnected modules, said modules comprising a control device module and a pole cell module, said modules of the switching device being interconnected with a shaft adapted to transfer a torque required for operating the switching device from one module to another module, wherein each module comprises a shaft element, and wherein said shaft transferring the torque is composed of directly interconnected shaft elements, both ends of a shaft element of each module being provided with a connecting member for connecting the shaft element to a shaft element of an adjacent module, a connecting member provided at a first end of the shaft element of each module being a male connecting member of a grooved shaft type having a plurality of teeth, and a connecting member provided at a second end is a female connecting member adapted to be connected to a male connecting member of an adjacent module, the shaft element of each module comprising means for connecting the shaft element to a shaft element of an additional module comprising at least one universal tooth formed on the male connecting member of the shaft element of each module, and a counterpart member for the at least one universal tooth formed at the female connecting member of the shaft element of each module, the at least one universal tooth having a shape different from the shape of the rest of the plurality of teeth formed on the male connecting member of the shaft element.

14. (New) A modular switching device as claimed in claim 13, wherein each of said modules is an independent module having six walls and being shaped substantially as a rectangular parallelepiped.

15. (New) A modular switching device as claimed in claim 13, wherein the universal tooth of each male connecting member has a length different from the length of the rest of the plurality of teeth formed on said male connecting member.

16. (New) A modular switching device as claimed in claim 13, wherein the universal tooth of each male connecting member has a width different from the width of the rest of the plurality of teeth formed on said male connecting member.

17. (New) A modular switching device as claimed in claim 13, comprising two modules that have frames of different sizes and are directly interconnected via said shaft elements.

18. (New) A modular switching device as claimed in claim 17, wherein one of said two directly interconnected modules having frames of different sizes is an additional module, such as an auxiliary contact module.

19. (New) A switch device module comprising a shaft element adapted to be directly connected to a shaft element of another switch device module for transferring a torque from the switch device module to the another switch device module, both ends of the shaft element of the switch device module being provided with a connecting member for connecting the shaft element to a shaft element of the another module, a connecting member provided at a first end of the shaft element being a male connecting member of a grooved shaft type having a plurality of teeth, and a connecting member provided at a second end is a female connecting member adapted to be connected to a male connecting member of another module, the shaft element comprising at least one universal tooth formed at the male connecting member of the shaft element, and a counterpart member for the at least one universal tooth formed at the female connecting member of the shaft element, the at

least one universal tooth having a shape different from the shape of the rest of the plurality of teeth formed on the male connecting member of the shaft element.

20. (New) A switch device module as claimed in claim 19, wherein the switch device module is an independent module having six walls and being shaped substantially as a rectangular parallelepiped.

21. (New) A switch device module as claimed in claim 19, wherein the male connecting member and the female connecting member are shaped as counterparts of each other.

22. (New) A modular switching device comprising a plurality of interconnected modules, said modules comprising a control device module and a pole cell module, said modules of the switching device being interconnected with a shaft adapted to transfer a torque required for operating the switching device from one module to another module, wherein each module comprises a shaft element, and wherein said shaft transferring the torque is composed of directly interconnected shaft elements, and wherein each of said modules is an independent module having six walls and being shaped substantially as a rectangular parallelepiped.